

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner : Not yet assigned
Group : Not yet assigned
Applicants : Gregory D. May, Eric B. Kmiec and Michael C. Rice
Application No. : Not yet assigned
Filed : Concurrently herewith
For : CELL-FREE ASSAY FOR PLANT GENE
TARGETING AND CONVERSION

New York, New York
February 20, 2002

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Prior to issuing a first Office Action in the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following paragraph after the title and before the heading "TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION":

This application is a continuation of International Patent Application PCT/US00/22974, filed August 21, 2000, which claims benefit from United States Provisional Application No. 60/149,987, filed August 20, 1999.

REMARKS

The Amendment to the Specification

Applicants have amended the specification to add reference to the priority claim which is also disclosed in the application filing documents. No new matter has been added. Entry of the amendment is requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97, applicants make of record the following documents, copies of which are submitted herewith:*

Foreign Patent Documents

WO 99/07865, published February 18, 1999

Other Documents

Beetham et al., "A tool for functional plant genomics: Chimeric RNA/DNA oligonucleotides cause *in vivo* gene-specific mutations." Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 96:8774-78 (1999).

Cole-Strauss et al., "Targeted gene repair directed by the chimeric RNA/DNA oligonucleotide in a mammalian cell-free extract." Nucl. Acids Res. 27(5):1323-30 (1999).

Rice et al., "Genetic repair of mutations in plant cell-free extracts directed by specific chimeric oligonucleotides." Plant Physiol. 123:427-37 (2000).

Yoon et al., "Targeted gene correction of episomal DNA in mammalian cells mediated by a chimeric RNA-DNA oligonucleotide." Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 93:2071-76 (1996).

Zhu et al., "Targeted manipulation of maize genes *in vivo* using chimeric RNA/DNA oligonucleotides." Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 96:8768-73 (1999).

* A completed Form PTO-1449 listing these documents is attached hereto.

Applicants request that the cited documents be (1) fully considered by the Examiner during the course of examination of this application, and (2) printed on any patent issuing from this application. Applicants further request that a copy of form PTO-1449, as considered and initialed by the Examiner, be returned with the next communication.

Respectfully submitted,



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